



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Washington, DC
20250

Note: New vendors and subcontractors must supply all required paperwork (Appendix 1, Financial Statement, and 3 Reference Letters) and must register in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA). In addition, all vendors must also be registered in the CCR within 48 hours after bid opening or your company may be considered non-responsive.

FV-311

Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Date Issued: August 19, 2008

Fresh Fruit, Announcement FV-311, Invitation 029

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell fresh fruit as indicated below and per the Announcement for use in child nutrition and other domestic food assistance programs. **Offers are due by 1 p.m., Central Time, Wednesday, August 27, 2008.** Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, September 5, 2008. Deliveries are to be made from September 29, 2008 through October 22, 2008.

Offers are invited from the trade for

Fresh Pears, Bartlett	45 lb. cartons	1,800 cases
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Vendors or subcontractors who are supplying fresh pears are required to undergo the USDA AMS FVP Fresh Products Branch Good Handling Practices (GHP) certifications process, and must score at least 80% on each of the following elements: House Packing; Storage and Transportation; and Traceback, prior to the submission of bids. Brokers are exempt from this requirement.

In addition to the GHP, vendors or subcontractors/suppliers are also required to undergo the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification process. Vendors will be required to submit a list of the growers they will potentially use for the fresh pears with their bids. USDA's Fresh Products Branch will schedule and ensure that Federal or State inspectors provide an informational audit to those growers to explain where improvements need to be made to pass the USDA GAP audit.

The following statements will result in an immediate failure of the GAP requirement.

- **An immediate food safety risk is present when produce is grown, processed, packed, or held under conditions that promote or cause the produce to become contaminated.**
- **The presence or evidence of rodents, and excessive amounts of insects or other pests in the produce during packing, processing, or storage.**
- **Observation of employee practices (personal or hygienic) that have jeopardized or may jeopardize the safety of the produce.**
- **Falsification of records.**

USDA will pay for these inspections from program funds.

The Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program can be accessed at the following website:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm>

All prime vendors are reminded that they are prohibited from subcontracting with companies or individuals that have been suspended or debarred.

No offer will be made to 8(a) vendors on this invitation.

All invitations with orders for the state of New York must have the pack date stamped on the outside of each carton. The pack date should be annotated as per the following example: (05/01/2003). Orders for the state of New York requiring this special marking will be indicated by (**). This applies to New York orders "Only," if and when they appear on an invitation.

Bids must be submitted electronically via the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) on the Internet. Offerors who submit bids using other than DEBES, will be deemed non-responsive. Offeror must be assigned a Logon ID by USDA to access the site. The Internet address is: <http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes> which translates into a connection of <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe>? Once connected, follow the online procedures. A 'HELP' button provides detailed instructions for using the system or call 202-720-4517 for assistance.

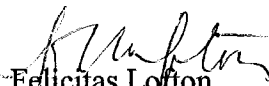
Bidders are cautioned to bid only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver in accordance with the contract. Inquiries about Announcement FV-311, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Fresh Fruit dated April 2004, or this Invitation should be directed to the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0239, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, telephone (202) 720-4517. An electronic version of this invitation can be obtained through the World Wide Web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

Purchases will be made on a delivered basis, subject to Announcement FV-311, to the listed locations. Delivery by trucks or railcars is optional to the contractor, except for those destination(s) which specify delivery by truck only or rail only.

Destinations with split shipments that are unspecified on the invitation are indicated by a single asterisk (*).

ANNOUNCEMENT : FV311
 INVITATION : 029
 COMM GROUP : 34 FRUIT, FRESH
 COMM TYPE : 33 PEARS, BARTLETT, FRESH
 PACK SIZE : 44 45 LB CTN

ITEM NO	DESTINATION CITY	ST	TRANS RESTR	QUANTITY (CSE)	PRICE PER (CSE)
DELIVERY PERIOD 09/29/08 - 10/01/08					
001	LOS ANGELES	CA	TRUCK ONLY	900	_____
DELIVERY PERIOD 10/20/08 - 10/22/08					
002	PHOENIX	AZ	TRUCK ONLY	900	_____
TOTAL QUANTITY FOR COMMODITY TYPE				1,800	
TOTAL QUANTITY FOR INVITATION				1,800	


 Felicitas Lofton
 Contracting Officer

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.